



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
Aug. 23, 2007

FIRST 2007 HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASE REPORTED ***Individual Did Not Contract Disease in San Diego County***

HHSA (San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency) reports the first confirmed case of West Nile virus (WNV) for this year. The individual, an 85-year-old Los Angeles County man, was hospitalized after developing symptoms consistent with WNV including fever and weakness.

The man became ill shortly after coming to San Diego County in early August. He remains hospitalized, in stable condition.

"The man was admitted to a local hospital and subsequently diagnosed with meningitis and encephalopathy, prompting tests for WNV and other causes," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., San Diego County Public Health Officer. "It's important for the public to protect against WNV by taking precautions including avoiding outdoor activity at dawn and dusk; and using insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus."

Other precautions include not sleeping outside, unprotected, while camping; wearing long sleeves and pants; removing any source of standing water from the perimeter of your property; and ensuring that windows and doors have tight fitting screens without holes or tears.

HHSA is working closely with the County Department of Environmental Health (DEH), which continues its WNV control activities to check for and eradicate possible sources of the virus in San Diego County. A total of 19 birds have tested positive for WNV this year, matching last year's total.

"We are looking for and treating mosquito breeding sites throughout the county," said Gary Erbeck, Director, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health.

For more information or to report dead birds, please call the County's WNV information line toll free at (888) 551-INFO (4636) or visit the County's web site at www.SDFighttheBite.com.

###